

GERMAN CONTROL OF MEXICO FEARED

Agents of Kaiser Gained Carranza's Favor, It Is Said, by Gifts of Munitions.

5,000 TEUTONS THERE NOW

U. S. Government Takes Steps to Prevent Hostile Acts Along Border.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—German activity in Mexico, culminating in serious military operations along the border and in the destruction or suspension of the tremendous British and American oil industry in the Tampico district, is regarded as a possible if not probable sequel of a long continued break in diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany.

This situation at least bears a threatening aspect and there is reason to believe that the Government of the United States is now taking steps to check up on recent German activities in Mexico and to reach a conclusion as to what action may be required by developments which have been brought to the attention of officials in Washington.

The countermanding of return orders for certain military units on the border and the hurried despatch of Ambassador Fletcher with an expert military adviser, Capt. Frank B. McCoy, to Mexico city, are looked upon as the first public steps toward resisting the further extension of German influence over the uncertain Carranza Government.

This Government has reason to believe that Germany's desire to obtain a controlling influence over Mexican affairs has been stimulated to a marked degree by the recent break in diplomatic relations. The United States has a large part of the German propaganda in this country, consular and semi-official, may be transplanted in Mexico city for this purpose.

Reasons for Belief

Here are some of the incidents which have given pause to the Administration's plan to rush into a full recognition of the Carranza Government.

1.—A report that the German Government suggested that Count von Bernstorff remove to Mexico city in a semi-official capacity after receiving his passport from this country.

2.—The Ambassador declined to do so.

3.—The German legation in Mexico city has recently been the largest residence in the city, supposedly for the housing of a greatly enlarged official and unofficial staff.

4.—German hardware merchants are believed to be in possession of upward of 15,000,000 rounds of ammunition and other munitions of war, smuggled into Mexico through false manifests between June 20 and November 15, 1916.

5.—The Department of Justice is in possession of evidence that the German Embassy here had detailed reports showing how Mexico could be turned into a military force against the United States under German direction.

One Plot Frustrated

6.—German influences are known to have been exerted in a recent attempt on the part of Dr. Krum-Heller, surgeon-general of the Carranza army, to defeat the American border embargo by the purchase of large supplies of ammunition from Spanish munition makers. Warned by the British Government, the Spanish Government blocked this attempt, and Krum-Heller barely escaped with his liberty.

7.—Maximilian Klotz, a German reservist, within the last year has been placed in charge of all Carranza's ordnance and ammunition matters, including the direction of the Government munitions plant at Santa Fe, about ten miles southwest of Mexico city. This plant has a capacity of 50,000 rounds of small arms ammunition daily.

8.—The German Minister, Von Eckert, recently played a conspicuous part in a big Carranza celebration in Mexico city. The history of German influence in Mexico in recent years has been marked by two characteristic firsts. The intimate connection which the legation has always maintained with the 5,000 or more German subjects in the republic, and second, by the respect which, along with all foreign governments, Germany has commanded for her interests during the seven years of revolution and anarchy since 1910.

In only two instances has Germany had cause to complain of the treatment of her nationals, and these were prior to the ascendancy of the Carranza faction. In one case she collected 100,000 marks and brought about the execution of fifteen Mexicans for the murder of a German family of three by Maderista supporters. In the other, the murder of a German subject was punished by Huerta with the devastation of the State of Michoacan and the execution of all suspected of complicity in the outrage.

Business Not Molested.

German interests in Mexico are concerned almost exclusively with hardware and machinery distributing agencies. These have been molested less than any other branch of business.

Last November a shipment of "hardware" on the way to Vera Cruz was discovered to contain 448,000 rounds of Mauser cartridges consigned to the Compania Ferrera Mexicana, Roberto Boker & Co., a German hardware firm in Mexico city. The parting of a cable by which the "hardware" boxes were being swung from the ship to the dock revealed the true nature of the shipment. The cartridges had been purchased in this country, shipped to New York and consigned as hardware. The Mexican Consul at New York, Juan M. Burns, is now under \$10,000 bail awaiting trial for swearing to a false manifest in connection with this and other shipments.

Can't Get Nickel for Bullets.

In view of recent revelations as to German activities in Mexico officials here are unwilling to concede that this ammunition ever left German hands. The Carranza soldiers are using in large part rifle ammunition manufactured in Santa Fe factory. Because of the inability to import cupro-nickel with which to jacket lead bullets, this factory is turning out bullets made of copper transmission wire, cut into proper lengths for insertion in brass shells. Such bullets have had a trajectory of about 120 yards only before they commence to tumble and fall, due to the absence of a cupro-nickel jacket. It is considered extremely doubtful that these would be in use if Carranza had obtained the large supplies now known to have been consigned to German hardware firms.

It is pointed out that plenty of German gold is available in this country for the financing either of Carranza or some other powerful Mexican faction in demonstrations against our border which may cause us serious trouble or an

S. S. NEW YORK DUE HERE THIS MORNING

Wireless Messages Tell of Safe Passage Through the Submarine Zone.

UNABLE TO OBTAIN GUNS

American Line Officials Humiliated at Being Forced to Suspend Sailings.

The American Line steamship New York, which sailed from Liverpool on February 3, the last day of grace specified in the German submarine decree, and was the first American passenger ship to pass through the new war zone, will dock this morning about 5 o'clock. Private wireless messages received from the ship last night said the voyage had been uneventful and all on board were well. No mention was made in these messages of a German submarine having been seen.

The safe return of the New York was good news for President P. A. S. Franklin of the International Mercantile Marine, but the ship's arrival at home merely emphasizes the intolerable situation in which the officials of the line find themselves. As matters stand the New York will have to be tied up indefinitely to join the St. Louis and St. Paul in court, enforced idleness. Just how long it will take to get the German blockade of the port of New York is costing the American Line and other American steamship interests Mr. Franklin was unable to estimate last night, but the sun is formidable.

It is not the pocket loss, however, which so irritates American Line officials. Their feeling of humiliation at being compelled to suspend sailings because of the disinclination of the United States Government to offer protection in the way of warship convoys or through the loss of naval guns and gunners goes beyond words.

Can't Get Naval Guns.

Mr. Franklin said yesterday: "I think it would be better for me not to say anything more about the impossible position in which American ships are placed. I have already expressed myself, and it is a situation that the public must understand vividly. We are blockaded by Germany and that's all there is to it. We can't get the guns we would like to buy and apparently we couldn't get enough trained gunners even if we had the guns. If any one supposes it would be an easy matter to buy a six inch naval gun from any of the manufacturers, just let him try it. They can't be had."

The news that Washington is already formulating plans to take charge of the arming of American ships is very good reading. I hope it is true, but I know nothing about it. No intimation has come to us that we are to get protection. In fact, we have quite another notion."

The paralysis fastened upon the American Line was illustrated yesterday when President Franklin said a large

part of the mail sacks that were put aboard the St. Louis for transmission to England have been transferred to the White Star liner Cedric, which is due to sail this morning at 3 o'clock. If American mails get to Europe at all they will have to go under the British flag. Twelve of the passengers booked for the St. Louis, who have been waiting with very lively impatience for sailing instructions, have transferred to the Lapland, but forty continue to wait for the St. Louis, saying they would take a chance under the American flag. The Cedric carries no passengers.

Won't Take Chances.

Mr. Franklin has no encouragement to offer those persons who insist that the company fulfill its contract and take them on the St. Louis or on another American Line ship.

There is no doubt that would give me more satisfaction than to be able to announce that the St. Louis was going out to-morrow morning," said Mr. Franklin last night at his home, 41 East Sixty-first street, "but we cannot take the responsibility of endangering so many lives and of imperiling so much valuable property. The situation remains just where it was. No American Line ship will sail unless the United States Government takes measures to protect American lives and American property."

Day by day the situation becomes more distressing to American ship owners. In eleven days only two American ships, both of which were freighters carrying no passengers and both bound for Bordeaux and to relatively safer waters than exist now around the English coast, have left the port of New York. Day by day ship owners are impressed by the fact that the German blockade, as it affects New York and other American ports, is virtually absolute.

The monetary loss is growing; mails are delayed, thereby causing great inconvenience to business men; passengers are held up and freight congestion is becoming a serious problem. However, there is an even more patent reason for the general resentment against enforced idleness. That is the feeling that something should have been done to prove that American ships have actually as well as theoretically the freedom of the seas.

Bernstorff Goes Wednesday.

Federal officials confirmed yesterday the announcement of the Scandinavian-American Line that the steamship Frederik VIII, carrying Count von Bernstorff, the members of his staff and 200 German consular agents, a party of more than 300 in all, will sail at 2 P. M. on Wednesday. It was understood last night by these officials that the Von Bernstorff party will not arrive at the pier until Wednesday morning, and that they will go directly aboard the ship. No trouble is anticipated either by secret service men or by the police for the measure and no unusual precautions have been taken to prevent the German officials from insult or annoyance. They will be guarded all the way here from Washington, and will have a police escort from their special train to the ship.

The opinion was offered last night by an official who is watching events very closely that the full in the international situation may be due to the Government's desire to get Count von Bernstorff and all German officials safely home before the time for the measure is turned down. The prediction was made that when the Ambassador and his associates reach Germany things will begin to happen, and that then the "showdown" will come.

HOUSE SKITTISH ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE

It Will Not Pass Such a Measure, Except at Request of Wilson.

POLITICAL JOKE FEARED

Representative Kahn Is Trying to Get Bill From Army General Staff.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Despite the action of the Senate Military Affairs Committee in reporting out a modified universal service bill the House probably will not consider the question at this session unless in connection with an out and out war measure. And then it will not pass such a measure unless at the direct and open request of the White House.

In the House Military Affairs Committee no support can be depended upon to make the reporting of a modified form of universal training a possibility worth while attempting in the event that the general staff of the Army through the Secretary of War, submits a measure which those who are interested in but not committed to universal training can report out.

To the broad question "Do you favor universal service?" not more than 15 percent of the membership of the House would answer in the affirmative. However, if such answers were to be published, privately a much larger proportion believe that some form of military service must in time be adopted by this country, but their position is that the country is not yet convinced of the necessity for so radical a departure from our voluntary service system and that it would be as much as their political lives are worth to attempt to anticipate the feeling of their constituents on this measure.

Representative Julius Kahn, ranking Republican on the Military Affairs Committee, is an avowed advocate of some form of compulsory military service. He has promised to introduce a bill of this nature of the general staff will submit some specific measure. Because of the extreme nature of a measure which has been prepared Secretary Baker refused last week to transmit the bill to Congress without material modifications. Mr. Kahn has asked the War Department several times for the measure and it is possible that he will accept the Chamberlain bill and try to make a bet on that if the general staff's measure does not materialize within the next few days.

As an amendment calling for universal service could not be considered in connection with the army appropriation bill, which comes up this week, it is not likely that the House will be called upon to consider a universal service measure un-

COLD WINDS FAIL TO CHILL ASTOR'S ARDOR

Millionaire Ensign One of the Hardest Working Men in Naval Militia.

Observation Balloon For U. S.

Will Be Purchased From Proceeds of Century Theatre Benefit.

A part of the proceeds of the benefit at the Century Theatre on Thursday afternoon will be devoted to the purchase of an observation balloon for use over New York harbor, according to an announcement made yesterday by the committee which includes Mrs. Otto H. Kahn, Mrs. Reginald De Roven, Mrs. Charles Van Rensselaer, Mrs. James Lowell Putnam, Miss Gertrude Kingston and Miss Eliza Maxwell.

Chilly blasts yesterday failed to cool the patriotic ardor of Ensign Vincent Astor. Since the Naval Militia was called out he has been one of the hardest working men in the service.

He was on duty yesterday from 7 in the morning until 1 in the afternoon as junior aid to Chief of Staff A. B. Fry in the office of the newly designated National Naval Volunteers in the Custom House. Besides a certain amount of

office routine, his duties consisted of a tour of inspection of the bridge patrol and checking up on the fulfillment of certain requests made by Capt. Fry to the public service corporations.

The men guarding the bridge piers and approaches are now kept warm by an abundance of heavy windproof clothing, with old fashioned overshoes, thick gloves and extra sweater jackets under their short service overcoats.

Following a conference yesterday afternoon between Capt. Fry and Deputy Police Commissioner Goley it was decided to turn over the guarding of the piers of the Queensboro Bridge resting on Blackwell's island to the police. Arrangements for lighting the guarded sections will remain the same as under the naval men. The official order will go out to-morrow setting the exact day for the withdrawal of the naval militia and the substitution of the police.

Commencing today at 9 A. M. the

Semi-Annual Sale of Saks Suits for Men

Reduced from \$45, \$40, \$38, \$35, \$33, \$30 and \$28

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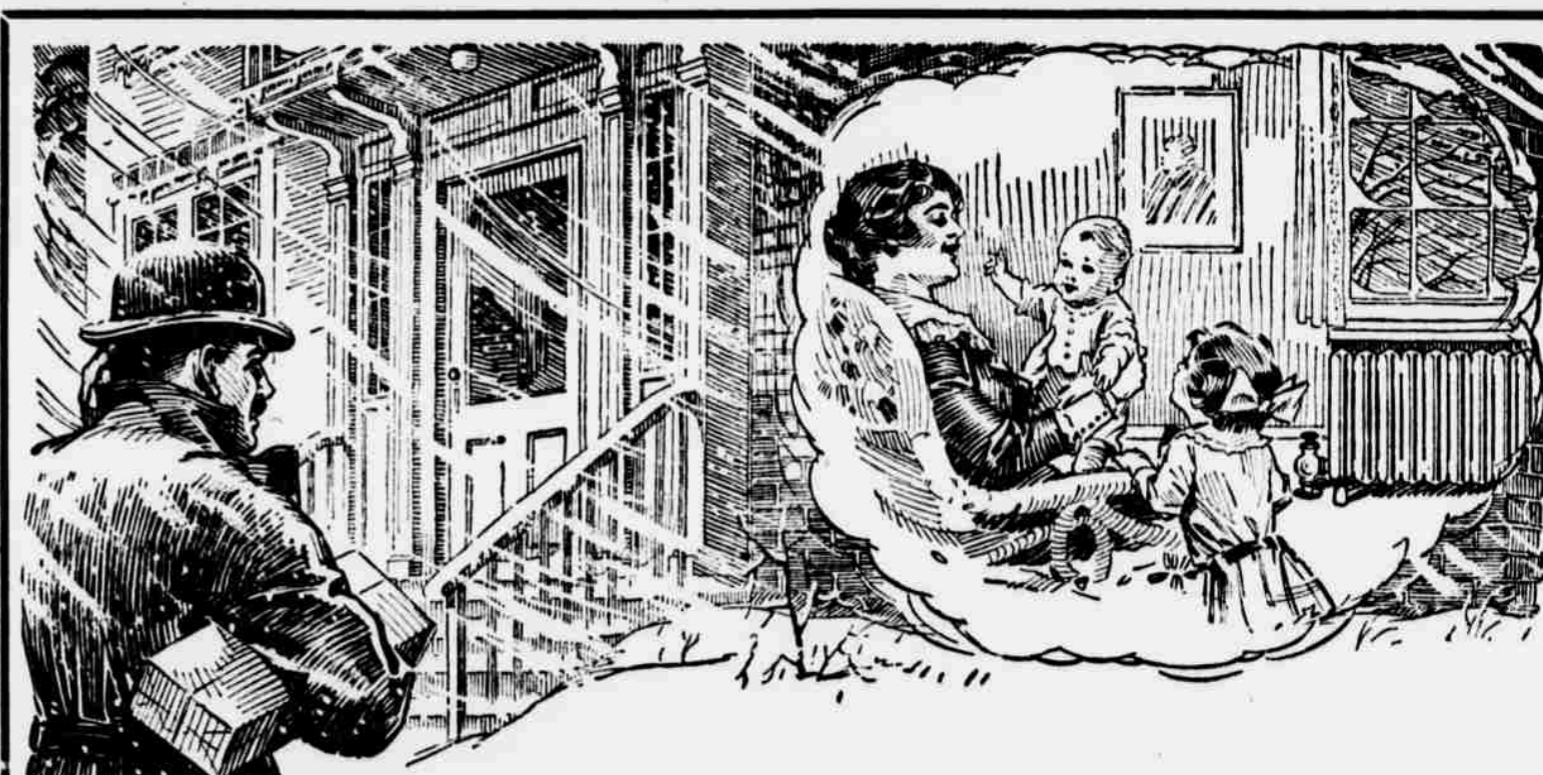
Woolens are abnormally high, and an increase in the cost of clothing is inevitable. Therefore these reductions are the more important. Each suit has been tailored this season by the Saks tailoring organization, the models are the very newest, and the variety of fabrics and colorings affords unusual latitude for selection.

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A No. 5-21 W. IDEAL Boiler and 450 ft. of 38-1/2 AMERICAN Radiator costing the owner \$305, were used to heat this cottage. At this price the goods can be bought of any reputable, competent fitter. This did not include costs of labor, pipe, valves, freight, etc., which vary according to climatic and other conditions.

IDEAL heating is the utmost in comfort

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A little larger first investment over cost of a cheap heating equipment can be quickly overcome by omitting extra inner doors, chimneys, mantels, storm sash, weather strips, etc. You might better increase your borrowing at the bank for the fuel and other savings that IDEAL heating will give you will make money for you far beyond the bank interest you have to pay.

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IDEAL Boilers have large fuel pots in which the air and coal gases thoroughly mix as in a modern gas or oil mantle or burner, thus extracting every bit of the heat from the fuel. Easier to run than a stove.

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Featuring the exclusive unbreakable "Linocord" button holes, which are noted for their remarkable durability. Because of this particular feature Ide Collars are very easy to button and unbutton. In fact, Ide Collars are so well constructed that they absolutely eliminate collar trouble.

They are made not alone for service, but to retain that "Snap and Set" of line particular men admire.

Two New Ide Models



Prices: 15c each—\$1.75 per dozen

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6,000 Men's Silk Cravats at 35c 59c 69c 85c

A rare collection of better-grade scarfs, made of almost every kind of imported and domestic silk, offered at these special prices as a result of an extraordinary special purchase. All kinds of striped, floral and figured designs are included, in a wonderful range of colors and combinations.

A Sale of Men's Hats at \$1.95

Will be held on the Main Floor Today

Soft hats in almost every wanted color, and derbies in Black or Brown, all in new Spring models. The styles and makes are too numerous to describe in detail, but we do not hesitate in recommending every hat in the lot at exceptional value at \$1.95.

Also—All Our Velour Hats Reduced to \$2.95

Fine American Velour hats, lined with self color silks. Black, Brown and Green only.

\$3.00

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